

i thanked him for reading my work
and told him i was sorry he didn't "get it"
i disputed some of what he had said
about "tradition" and "heritage"
(didn't tradition begin somewhere?)
and the place of "self" in my work

but i was still on the defensive
so the third attempt went in the shit can
with the rest

i still don't know quite what i want to say
to the professional poet
so i am writing this now
hoping something will emerge
that's how i write

but i guess i don't really have much to say
to this guy
that wasn't in the writing i sent him
except maybe
"delightful" has nothing to do with it
"self" quite a bit to do with it
and running your own press
everything to do with it

PROBABLY THE BEST FRIEND I EVER HAD

the trusty little cat
swipes at you
with a fish
in his mouth
he knows you're
routine
a master
in name only

he likes to eat
almost as much
as you do
that's why
you think
he loves you

— Scott Schafer

Port Angeles WA/ Portland OR